

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
May 8, 2013**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Maureen Buckley
Robert Ladd

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Hampton 375th Celebration

Betty Moore, Hampton Historical Society, said much work is being done planning for the 375th celebration. She said she would like input from the Commissioners regarding an idea that the Historical Society is proposing. Ms. Moore said many people have seen pictures of the beach from the past where buildings had buntings hung and how festive it looked.

Ms. Moore explained "Buntings at the Beach Celebrating Hampton's 375th". She said the purpose would be to promote Hampton's 375th celebration with a project that includes beach businesses and residents. Some businesses already hang buntings, but this could be expanded. It would be wonderful to have buntings hung by as many as possible. Cost can vary depending on the size of the building and the degree of decorating each participant wants to do. Ms. Moore said possibly the HBVD could suggest sources of buntings thereby keeping costs down for the participants.

Decorating with buntings would provide a traditional and classy look to the beach that will let visitors know that something special is happening this year. This will add to the community spirit of the beach.

Ms. Moore said they are also suggesting a secondary project "Glimpse of the Past" for the buntings participants. The Historical Society would offer one jpeg of participant's building, street, general area, etc. that will be suitable for framing. The participant would be responsible for printing and framing. A local history writer and author has agreed to research and write a short history of the image. More extensive research could be done by the Historical Society but typically would have a research fee attached.

The Commissioners agreed that the bunting project would be a great idea. Ms. Moore said more information about the 375th celebration can be obtained at hampton375th.org. Brian Lapham said those interested in volunteering during the celebration should contact Dick Desrosiers. Contact information is on the website. Ms. Moore noted that the 375th Committee is focusing on one weekend in August, but there will be other events taking place during the season.

Roger Stephenson (Stephenson Strategic Communications)

Commissioner Ladd introduced Roger Stephenson of Stephenson Strategic Communications and said Mr. Stephenson would speak on issues concerning events that impact the shoreline such as storms, etc.

Mr. Stephenson said he is a member of the Coastal New Hampshire Work Group. They work with municipalities and are also talking to businesses regarding this issue. Activities are underway regarding vulnerabilities. Some funding has been received and a study is being done. The Rockingham Planning Commission will also be working with six seacoast towns. The legislature, promoted by Senator Nancy Stiles, has established the Coastal Hazards and Sea Level Commission. The purpose of this commission is to recommend legislation and other rules to protect persons and property during storms. The City of Portsmouth is also presenting a study.

Mr. Stephenson discussed the reform of the National Flood Insurance Program. Under this Act it is possible to reduce flood insurance premiums if a building is raised three feet above the flood line. There will also be other impacts. For more information go to nhstormwatch.org.

There will be a meeting on Thursday, May 23rd, at the Seabrook Library at 5:45 p.m. which will bring together the towns of Hampton, Hampton Falls and Seabrook to discuss planning for the effects of future flooding. Another meeting will be held on May 29th at the Portsmouth Public Library to discuss climate change vulnerability.

Mr. Stephenson said his intent is to let people know of opportunities to take part in this effort.

Commissioner Buckley asked what the change in the flood insurance program will be. Mr. Stephenson said they will be using actuarial tables. One major effect would be a raising of premiums for structures below the flood line. Mr. Stephenson said he would be happy to get more information from the Office of Energy and Planning.

Sand Sculpture Update

Greg Grady said this will be the 13th annual Sand Sculpture event. This year's theme will be medieval and called "Knights and Days of Sand". There are some great sculptors coming in. Sand will be dropped on June 14th, the competition will be June 20-22 and the sculptures will be up for viewing through July 7th. This year there will be 10 sculptors. \$24,000 has been received in sponsorships. Brian Lapham said those wishing to volunteer at this event should contact him at 926-1386 or hamptonbeachus@yahoo.com.

Old Business

Commissioner Buckley said volunteers are needed for the tent at the Old Tyme Fair on June 6-9. Contact her at 396-6225.

Commissioner Ladd reminded everyone that if they want to do something with the HBVD, it must be presented to and approved by the Commissioners.

New Business

Chairman Rage said the banners have been put out.

Chairman Rage said Unitil is looking for easements to move the utility poles in conjunction with the fire station construction. This will be taken care of as soon as all information is received.

Chairman Rage discussed the proposed project at 339 and 345 Ocean Blvd. This project has been approved by the Zoning Board and the Selectmen have asked for a rehearing because of the height of the building which exceeds the 50 foot limit. Chairman Rage said he felt this project should be supported because of the improvement it would bring to the beach. Commissioner Ladd agreed and said the 50 foot requirement restricts development and this project will substantially increase the tax base.

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to support the development at 339 and 345 Ocean Blvd. as approved by the Zoning Board.

Michael Pierce, Selectman, said he had no strong feelings about the height of buildings at the beach. However, the 50 foot limit was voted in by those who live at the beach. Chairman Rage said at that time they were looking at heights over 85 feet and the way the article was written was confusing. It was misunderstood.

Ben Moore, Selectman, said to approve a 40% increase in the height ordinance is dangerous. It is taking a very large risk to ignore voters' decisions. Mr. Lapham agreed. Chairman Rage asked if there were any major objections by the abutters to the property. Mr. Moore said there were none.

Commissioner Ladd withdrew his motion because of mixed opinions presented. Chairman Rage said he personally is endorsing this project, but the HBVD should stand back at this time.

Senator Nancy Stiles came forward. She said she is wishing for a warm busy season for the beach. Senator Stiles said the money is there for the repair of the seawall and it will be completed.

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Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to approve the Minutes of April 10, 2013.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Glen French said the entertainment calendar is almost complete. There is a nice line-up for this season.

Closing Comments

There were no Closing Comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary